(c) Whether it will not be prudent to shift back to Gulbarga in the larger interest of national savings;

(d) Whether Government have any proposal to shift back the National Savings Wing to Gulbarga instead of retaining the junior office of N.S.O. at Raichur; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Office at Raichur which is bigger, has been retained.

(c) to (e) At present there is no proposal to restore the office of N.S.O. at Gulbarga.

Compliance of Agricultural Credit Norms by Banks

2536. SHRI SHIVAJIRAO GIRIDHAR PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several pubic sector banks could not achieve the targeted 18 per cent agricultural credit norms stipulated by the RBI; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the future course of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) In terms of Reserve Bank of India's guidelines, public sector banks are required to extend direct finance to agriculture (including allied activities) to the extent of 18 per cent of thier total credit. The amount of outstanding advances of public sector banks to agriculture sector (direct finance) as at the end of September, 1991 and September, 1992 is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

As at the end of	Amount outstanding	% of outstandings to the total credit
September, 1991	16063	15.6
September, 1992	17384	14.8

From the above, it may be observed that the outstanding amount to agriculture extended by public sector banks has increased in absolute term. However, in term of percentage achievements, the stipulated target of 18 per cent for agriculture sector has not achieved so far.

The performance of public sector banks in the matter of extending credit assistance to priority sector, including agriculture sector, is reviewed by Government as well as Reserve Bank of India periodically and suitable steps are taken to make up the deficiencies noticed. The performance was last reviewed in September, 1992 and the banks have been advised by the Govrenment to take necessary steps to achieve the stipulated targets.

Income Tax Raids in Gujarat

2537. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of raids conducted by Income Tax Department in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) what are the details of unaccounted valuables and cash confiscacated during such raids;

(c) what are the details of cases disposed off so far;

(d) whether valuables and cash have been returned to the concerned persons after disposal of the cases;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor alongwith the details of such valuables which are yet to be returned; and

(g) what is the stage of such raids in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) The details of searches conducted by the Income-tax Department in Gujarat and the seizures of unaccounted valuables assets made during the financial years, 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 are given in the statement attached. (See below).

(c) to (f) Out of the searches conducted during the said period, 393 cases have been disposed of so far and assets wrth Rs. 6.85 crores have been released/adjusted. In the remaining cases the Assessing Officers have taken up necessary follow up actions including finalisation of assessments.

(g) The information and evidence collected during the searches have been communicated to the concerned Assessing Officers, who have taken up necessary follow up actions as provided for under the Direct Taxes Acts on the basis of the seized materials.

Statement

Financial Year	No. of searches conducted	Seizure of Valuable assets			
		Cash	Jewellery	Others	Total
					(Rs. in Crores)
1989-90	3.79	3.28	2.69	2.22	8.19
1990-91	4.77	4.51	5.71	6.11	16.33
1991-92	2.71	3.83	3.62	4.60	12.05

Establishment of Customs of Central Excise evenue appellate tribunal

2538. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the establishment of a High Powered Customs and Central Excise Revenue Appellate Tribunal as passed by Parliament was announced in the General Budget proposals for 1992-93; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in establishing the said Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tribunal, in pursuance of the Customs & Excise Revenue Appellate Tribunal Act, 1986 (No. 62 of 1986), could not be set up as Writ Petitions were filed in Bombay and Delhi High Courts challenging the vires of the Act. The details of the amendments to the Act for establishment of the Tribunal are being worked out keeping in view the directions of the Bombay High Court in their interim order. Efforts are being made to finalise the proposal in consultation with the Ministry of Law,